

SOME BUTTERFLIES FROM  
TURKISH ASIA MINOR

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From August 6th to 11th 1986, DWB spent a holiday at Bodrum, in the province of Mugla, south west Turkey. This was the site of the ancient city of Halicarnassos, placed on a narrow peninsula which juts far out into the Aegean Sea. 23 species of butterfly were recorded in or within a ten mile radius of Bodrum. The species marked with an asterisk in the following list were brought home for checking and discussion with RFB:

\**Papilio machaon* L., common in villages. *Iphiclides podalirius* L., *Pieris brassicae* L., \**P. rapae* L. also fairly common. *Pontia daplidice* L., a few at Turkbuku. *Colias croceus* Fourc., a few only. A probable, but as yet unconfirmed \**Cigaritis cilissa* Led. f. *minima* Staud., one male, Turkbuku, wingspan 10mm, closely resembling *C. siphax* Lucas from Tunisia. \**Thersamonia thersamon* Esp., common, especially males. \**Lampides boeticus* L., very common. \**Celastrina argiolus* L. f. *paraleuca* Rober., very common in both sexes. \**Polyommatus icarus* Rott. f. *zelleri* Ver., very common. *Charaxes jasius* L., two at Bodrum castle, one at Turkbuku. *Limenitis reducta* Staud., one at Turkbuku. *Cynthia cardui* L., a few only. *Hipparchia syriaca* Fruh., one seen in pine woods near Milos. \**Hipparchia mersina* Staud., one male near Bodrum, very worn, two seen amongst pines near Milos. \**Maniola telmassia* Zell., common; of four females brought home, one is small (wingspan 21 mm.), and three large (25-26mm.), which were originally thought to be *M. jurtina*, in which both sexes are usually large. All agree closely in appearance with the females in a long series of *M. telmessia* taken on the nearby island of Rhodes, in which males are all small, but females show a similar variation in size. Although the male genitalia of the two species differ considerably, those of the female appear inseparable. *M. telmessia* alone has been previously reported from Mudra province, and the two species are not known to be sympatric in Turkey, although Thomson (1969) says that *M. jurtina telmessiaeformis* Ver., whose genitalia (?male) differ from those of *M. telmessia*, certainly occurs in the part of Asia Minor that is opposite Cyprus. \**Hyponephele lupina* Costa *rhamnusia* Freyer., Turkbuku, one fine male. \**Lasiommata megera* L., common. \**Kirinia roxelana* Cramer, Turkbuku, very common. *Syrichrus proto* Ochs., common. \**Carcharodus alcaea* Esp., common.

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The Lepidoptera of this part of the Turkish Aegean coast appear to be little known. Higgins (1966) mentions only ten species from the province of Mugla, although others which are present there may be included among the species he describes as widely distributed or generally common and for which he does not give numbered provinces. Leestmanns (1986) in an exhaustive account of spring time collecting in Turkey by himself and others, with a fine bibliography, refers only to nine species seen during visits to Yaniker, which is further south in Mudra province than Bodrum. Our own list, compiled in August, include nine species previously unrecorded, and not covered by Higgin's "well distributed and common" category. These are *P. machaon*, *C. cilissa* (subject to final confirmation), *C. jasius*, *L. reducta*, *H. syriaca*, *H. mersina*, *H. lupina rhamnusia*, *K. roxelana* and *S. proto*. The province is clearly worth further exploration.

### References

- Thomson, G., (1969) *Maniola jurtina* and its forms. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* 81:90.
- Higgins, L. G. (1966) Check-list of Turkish butterflies *Entomologist* 99:209-228.
- Leestmanns, R. Mottet, Ph., Verhulst, J., Carbonell, F. (1986). Contribution à la connaissance de la fauna printinière der Lepidopteres de Sud de l'Asie Mineure. *Linneana Belgica* 8(X): 338-381.

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AN EARLY (OR LATE ?) RED ADMIRAL – On 15th January 1988, in a wood north of Plymouth, Devon, I watched a female red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta* L.) flying and basking in the sun. A. ARCHER-LOCK 4 Glenwood Road, Plymouth, Devon.

PHLYCTAENIA PERLUCIDALIS HBN. (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) IN WILTSHIRE – This species was recorded at m.v. light at Dinton, Wiltshire (v.c.8) on 4.vii.1987. This appears to be a new county record and perhaps indicates a further expansion in the range of this species. S. PALMER. The Warren, Hindon Road, Dinton, Wiltshire.

A NEW INSECT REPELLENT – we have received a press release announcing a new product called Mosquito Milk. Originally designed as a repellent against malaria-carrying mosquitos and the sandfly vector of Leishmaniasis, it will shortly be available in the UK, supplied in a roll-on applicator.

The product is claimed to be non-toxic, being derived from extracts of plant oils. It is said to work by affecting the infra-red sensors of insects, preventing them from constructing a heat-image of their prey. PAUL SOKOLOFF